Michigan Library Statistical Report

2002 Edition

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Introduction

The 2002 edition of the **Michigan Library Statistical Report** presents FY 2001 data provided by public libraries, library cooperatives and those public libraries that serve as regional or subregional outlets to provide services for blind and physically handicapped patrons. Public library data is presented by class size, which is determined by population. It should be noted, however, that a library is not limited to comparing itself only to members in its class size.

Definitions for public library data elements are based on the Federal State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data of the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. By using this national system and its definitions of terms, Michigan's data is comparable with those of the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. The national data for Fiscal Year 2000 is available in a publication entitled **Public Libraries in the U.S.: FY 2000**, by the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. A complete list of publications and public library data can be downloaded from the Web at *http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/index.asp*.

The calculated total for "Population of Library Service Area" exceeds the state's total population because more than one public library may count the same population. For example, a district library may share part of another library's service area by virtue of having a participating municipality, such as a school, with geographic boundaries that extend into the adjoining library's service area. Statewide totals, averages, and per capita were calculated based on the actual total state unduplicated population. The millage reports allow exhibition of data for two millages, however there are 6 libraries that declare 3 millages; these are noted with asterisks. To receive information on the third millage for these libraries, please contact Molly Dwyer, at (517) 373-3828.

The publication includes a Public Library Index that identifies basic information for each library, including the class size under which the library data is reported. Current Information from the Public Library Annual Report is presented under the name of the library at the reporting date. Reports that contain current data are: Salary and Benefit Information, Millage, Non-Resident Fees and MichiCard Membership and Technology (excepting the two columns pertaining to the Internet). Reporting Year Information includes data presented under the name of the library at the library's reporting year-end. The reporting year for the public libraries is the most recent fiscal year completed by each library prior to October 1, 2001. Reports that contain reporting year data are: Outlets, Hours and Staff, Operating Income and Expenditures, Capital Income and Expenditures, Library Collections, Library Services and Square Footage.

Special Considerations:
All legally established public libraries in the state of Michigan were invited to respond. Data were collected as part of the Annual Report/State Aid Application. Library systems were asked to report data that includes their main and branch libraries. A copy of the Public Library Annual Report form and instructions are included in this publication. A total of 381 public libraries provided data. Though Oakland County Research Library and Washtenaw County Library filed timely reports, their data are not included due to their unique structures. It is important to note that their data are also not included in the Class and Statewide Summary reports. Five libraries reported no central libraries though they are included in the 384 public libraries in the statewide summary reports. See the Public Library Index notes for detail information.

To make the publication more readable, a blank indicates that the library reported "0", "none", or did not report. Data was accepted as reported. In some cases, libraries were contacted to clarify responses. There were no imputations for libraries that did not respond or for items left blank, thus, unless the response rate to a data element was 100 percent, totals in the tables are probably underestimated.

The averages reported on the salary and millage pages are figured by using only the number of libraries that reported having that data element.

This publication is also available in pdf format on the Library of Michigan web site at *michigan.gov/hal*.

Interpretation and Usage

Despite changing times, it continues to be true that a community is strengthened with the presence of a good library. In the quest to fulfill the entertainment and information needs of the public, Michigan's libraries continually increase their value to the community. It is our hope that by gathering accurate and uniform information, we are providing opportunities to measure and evaluate library services.

When analyzing the data, keep in mind:

- *Comparisons are not always apples to apples.*
  Libraries may have a different fiscal year and/or special circumstances, which may have atypically affected their data (e.g. a temporary closing due to reconstruction, severe weather, etc.).
- *Caution should be used when comparing any one library with national, state or class averages.*
  One data element alone does not tell a complete story. Rather, data elements should be interpreted in context with each other and with the individual library's overall service program and budget. Additionally, even libraries of similar size have varying funding patterns and different service goals. (e.g. A reference and resource library will show a different pattern of statistics than a popular materials library.)
- *On-line databases and Internet usage have dramatically changed library use patterns.*
  Though we ask a limited number of questions about technology services, we strongly encourage individual libraries to track use patterns. Providing users with new services may significantly alter the use patterns of the more traditional services.
- *There is no need to limit library comparisons to those in the same class size.*
  Population alone does not determine the best means for analysis. For example, many libraries find Operating Income or Operating Expenditures to be a more useful variable, while others are more interested in simply comparing a library with other libraries in the same county.
- *Data alone do not define certain components that are immeasurable.*
  Statistical data only suggest patterns and indicate areas that may need improvement or special attention by the local decision-makers. The people that maintain and support libraries clearly are what make each library unique.

The Library of Michigan provides this data to information specialists, librarians, trustees, government officials and the general public as they evaluate library activities and plan improvements in library services. Participation in filing the Annual Report demonstrates cooperation among Michigan public libraries and cooperatives and devises national leadership and recognition. Library statistics are commonly used to:

- Demonstrate effective use of public funds and provide a clear vision of what libraries do for the community.
- Allocate resources for various library operations, including collection development, staffing and programming.
- Justify statements of need for new services, building structures of technology.
- Support local long-range planning efforts.
- Provide a historical record.

Thank you to all respondents for their accurate reporting of these statistics. We welcome your comments and questions about this report as we strive to make this as complete and useful as possible. Additionally, the Library of Michigan can provide more detailed information to libraries upon request. Interested individuals can obtain specialized reports on specific information for this and previous years. Please direct your questions or comments to Molly Dwyer at the Library of Michigan, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, PO Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909-7507, email: *mdwyer@michigan.gov.*